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PEACEFUL METHOD IN A WORLD OF CONFLICT

The urgency of our present situation in the atomic and hydrogen era which has begun requires the acceptance of a new conception of society - a society living in an unarmed world, so that only local, national, and international police remained.

The pattern is practical and could follow the general pattern we ourselves use from the small village sheriff or chief through the town, city, county, state, and federal police forces. By the principles, methods, and administration of the police forces within the United States, we have taken away the possibility of the police force being a national threat comparable, for example, to the SS troops and the gestapo of Germany.

The acceptance of this new conception of society would not leave out the realistic existence of conflicting philosophies, ideologies, systems, or the conflicts in the objectives of specific governments. Again illustrating this, in the United States we have conflicts between organized agricultural and rural forces and the organized bodies representing chiefly the highly populated and industrialized urban centers, and conflicts between the interests of ownership, management, and labor. But - we have means of preserving freedom, utilizing democratic principles, and discovering, in the main, peaceful methods for working out these conflicts which arise either from groups desiring radical change in conditions, or from groups organized to prevent changes from being made.

On the world scale, this would therefore mean utilizing the provisions already embodied in the Charter and work of the United Nations in creating new conditions, just, progressive, and representing needs of peoples. It requires that old quarrels and disputes be settled by processes making them obsolete, not emotional historic remembrances to stir new wars. It requires support for new and more rapid advances in technical assistance, in the Specialized Agencies, especially in the underdeveloped parts of the world and in underdeveloped parts of nations now living on a relatively high scale of living.

This of course would bring specialized procedures and techniques also to areas of conflict which threaten to provoke the emotions of the whole world and to become the cause of ever-widening conflict, so dangerous as to offer the threat of another world war. An example would be the Israel-Jordan and indeed the Israel-Arab conflict among others in the Middle East. To endeavor to visualize our pattern at this point, we would suggest that the permanent armistice agreed upon must be followed by more active use on the part of both sides of the United Nations Armistice Commission, of United Nations observation teams, and even perhaps of United Nations uniformed police forces. These UN police forces would function only in such matters as patrolling the border to restrain or eliminate incidents, such as those of recent months, which continue to incite more violence along the Israel-Jordan border, threatening at any time to break out into a general war in the Middle East, if not beyond.

In addition to the foregoing provisions, the United Nations perhaps either in a special commission working on survey, research, and recommendations for technical assistance, or through such bodies set up by the Specialized Agencies, would provide the kind of a working unit which could be utilized at numerous other points in the world.

This would enable our people to have a long-range view of the kind of society toward which we are working and of the practical means which lie at our very hands for doing something effective concerning the problems now besetting the world, accentuating its fears, and playing into the hands of those whose nervous fingers could and might pull the triggers of an atomic or hydrogen war.

Would the people of the Soviet Union and their government accept such a pattern as we have outlined? Would the people of the United States and their government accept this pattern and such practical proposals for implementing it?

Will these two major groups be willing to

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PEACEFUL METHOD—Continued

negotiate differences to the point which permits them through the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Security Council and General Assembly to adopt a body of principles to guide disarmament and to adopt the procedures practically required. We believe the difficulties are immense. We do not expect universal disarmament overnight. But first-hand contacts with the United Nations and the Department of State and careful examination of the position of the Soviet Union give grounds for hope. The conviction that universal disarmament is an utter necessity if man is to continue to exist on this earth is widespread, especially among scientists and those who have the opportunity for broad international knowledge and perception and willingness to accept the goals which a peaceful society on earth may seek to achieve.

The achievement of such an objective in our day would be epoch-making. It would not eliminate the struggles through which man must pass. Nor would it create the Utopia in which man's conflicts and social struggles would be ended. It would bring the ethical concepts of the religions of the world and the values achieved by centuries of scientific research into action and enable man to attack his problems satisfactorily by peaceful methods of social, economic, national, and international change, instead of by resort to the ancient, barbaric, and un-Jewish and un-Christian method of war.

C.F.B., Jr.

INDOCHINA AND ASIAN PEACE

By CHARLES F. BOSS, Jr.

Indochina without question presents a grave threat to international peace. Eight years of internal strife with the avowed objective of preventing a Communist victory now presents the possibility of Indochina's becoming a new Korea or even more. The French government, it is clear, wants to retain its colony as long as possible, although within the shadow of possible defeat it has talked recently of conditional self-government if not independence. From the British point of view, the fall of Indochina to the Communists would shake British interests in Malaya. The trade of the new nation of Indonesia might well go less to the Dutch and British, and more to Chinese and Russian interests. The military strategists of the U.S.A., in President Eisenhower's words, see in a possible Communist victory in Indochina the rest of the nations in Southeast Asia toppling like a row of "falling dominoes." And - what about the Indochinese? We believe no matter who wins, the Indochinese want self-government and independence. Therefore, we humbly offer the following ingredients of a policy for Southeast and South Asia:

1. Respect the people of Asia and their right to express views which may not accord with those of the United States.

2. Show true humility by listening to and considering their views and by entering into mutually free consultations before determination of United States policy.

3. Exercise due restraint in announcing policies and, where possible, develop policy through a multilateral process, and, where feasible, through the United Nations.

4. Announce to France and to Asians with unmistakable clarity that our goal in Southeast Asia is the freedom and independence of Indochina at the earliest time consistent with a minimum loss of life and removal of threats to the general peace.

5. Stop thoughtless American chatter to the effect that if India wants favorable response to her requests for technical assistance and other economic aid when appropriations are considered in Congress, India ought to cooperate in our proposals for military defense and our demands for tying up economic needs with "defense" arrangements. To Asians this smacks of a new Western imperialism.

6. Suspend further military aid to Pakistan pending the outcome of a South and Southeast Asian Conference which we believe should be convened and in which the representatives of these countries, together with Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States, should work out in the group acceptable plans for the security of all South and Southeast Asia. Plans which are inacceptable to nations the size of India do not produce security.

7. Cooperate in conserving for both Indochina and France those economic and cul-

tural values which are mutually enriching and minister to the growth of both.

8. In view of possible changes in Far Eastern affairs and in policies of the new government in China, the United States government might well exercise restraint in hard-and-fast public statements which leave no room for flexibility at such time as the Peiping government may qualify for recognition.

9. At Geneva, take and hold the initiative before the world in both the spirit of conciliation and in proposals for further steps to negotiate an honorable peace with the Soviet Union and to lead the way toward universal disarmament.

POLICY AND ACTION

By CHARLES F. BOSS, Jr.

1. Maintain Faith in the Possibility of Negotiation and urge our government to explore every possible avenue for achieving negotiation of differences which otherwise might produce a world war. This means the support of efforts to create a situation of coexistence between East and West, restraining both those who by force and violence would change the present order and those who by force and violence would prevent any change. Techniques of peaceful change in our social, economic, and international order are available. Let's have the good will, patience, and intelligence to use them, rather than to let fear, hysteria, or aggressive purposes precipitate an all-out atomic-hydrogen world war.

2. Support Peaceful Solutions to Present Conflicts. (1) Urge continued peaceful efforts of negotiation to achieve a united, independent, and free nation in Korea. (2) Support peaceful solutions of present conflict situations, urging our government to continue its efforts to persuade both Israel and the Arab States to peacefully negotiate their conflicts. Also, in (3) India and Pakistan, and (4) Indochina.

3. Forestall the Outbreak of Conflict by improving (1) social and economic conditions. We must improve conditions resulting from poverty, disease, illiteracy, etc. (2) Improve status of individuals: Urge UN completion of Human Rights Covenant and U. S. ratification. Urge U. S. ratification of Covenant on Genocide. (3) Support policies of freedom, self-government, and independence for all peoples and nations, with due regard for timing.

4. Support Revised Immigration Policies and more adequate provisions for the millions of unsettled refugees.

5. Write to the President and your Representative and Senators at Washington, expressing support for the President's plan for the peaceful use of atomic energy for medical purposes, for technical assistance, and for the needs of power-starved areas.

6. Support Universal Disarmament. This is now an objective not only of the United States government but of the United Nations, which by an overwhelming vote created a Disarmament Commission, adopted a body of principles, and even at this time is seeking ways to make progress in this field. Support bills by Senator Flanders and others which would put our country on record as being in the forefront of those nations desirous of finding a way to live peacefully in a disarmed world.

7. Urge Larger Appropriations for the UN Technical Assistance Program, letting your Senator and Representative know your views. This does not rule out a United States Point 4 program, but we believe all programs of technical assistance should be coordinated with the UN program, even though administered by the United States. This gives a multilateral approach, disarms suspicion, and brings a larger number of nations into the pattern of international economic cooperation.

8. Urge Congress To Act Favorably on the continuation of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act.

9. Support the Relaxing of Restrictions on international trade so far as is possible across all lines in the fields of nonstrategic materials, medicines, and supplies designed to relieve human misery.

10. Spread Information Concerning the Specialized Agencies and support increased United States appropriations to these agencies as, for example, the Emergency Fund for the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labor Organization, UNESCO, and the UN Technical Assistance Development Fund.

11. Support Proposals for a UN Pool of surplus foods with contributions from the United States and other nations. These would be used for relief purposes in time of famine and to relieve other less serious shortages. This program could be carried out through the Specialized Agencies.

12. Give Increasing Support to Voluntary Plans of international exchange, overseas relief, and economic assistance.

13. Support Bipartisan Multilateral Approach in Policy. Urge leaders in the United States government to exercise extreme caution and restraint in the development and announcement of American policy in the interest of the world community of nations and a spirit of conciliation and negotiation in United Nations.

14. The Doctrine of Universality Embodied in Ecumenical Efforts to secure fellowship on a world scale naturally leads Christians to look toward the day when all nations will be members of the United Nations. At the same time, we recognize the strategic importance of timing in the recognition of new governments or in the admission of new members, and the problems of nations qualifying for membership under the UN Charter. Nevertheless, we believe

our government should exercise unusual restraint, refraining from placing itself in advance in a position which might present grave difficulties if negotiation permits and calls for radical changes in policy. The United States cannot indefinitely postpone the consideration of the recognition of, or admission to, the United Nations of nations whose forms of government may differ radically from our own.

15. Since the situation continually changes, subscribe to the Methodist Peace Courier regularly and seriously consider recommendations on policy and action.

GET THAT MAN!

Who is he? Every pastor knows. If he doesn't, he can find him. He may have to do a bit of sober thinking about it. He may have to inquire around a bit but -- whatever is required to do it -- get that man! Who? Well, all I can say is, he is the one man in your own local church best qualified to give his heart and conscience and time to making the program of World Peace and World Order significant. He will get this peace program really rolling. You may have to lay this matter on his conscience and convince him that he does have the qualifications for really doing something about it. The possibility of the atomic-hydrogen war which scientists and statesmen as well as most of the common people know could mean the extinction of the human race -- confronts us with the difficult moral problem and the grave consequences of failure unless that man, and all the rest of us, succeed in turning the world from hydrogen bomb fears to a course embodying negotiation and peaceful solutions of our problems. That man (or -- could be a woman) you must get can be chairman of a committee of from five to twenty-five persons, or he can be chairman of a committee of one. Were every church so equipped with leadership, we would have an army of over 42,000 local church world peace chairmen at work on this problem. Success to you.

C.F.B.Jr.

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CRUSADE FILM IN PROCESS

Mr. Richard Thompson, President of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, and Miss Barbara Ricks, Howard University student and Youth Delegate to the World Council of Churches Assembly in August, will interview Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam in Washington, May 2, on youth's relation to the Crusade for World Order. What is the role of Methodist students and youth in the Crusade? Young people have an important stake in peace, but can young people hope to do anything important for peace in today's world? These are typical of questions these young people will put up to Bishop Oxnam. A fifteen minute sound motion picture of the interview has been authorized by the Board of World Peace to be produced with the cooperation of the Radio and Film Commission of The Methodist Church for use by youth, student, and other groups meeting during the summer -- and thereafter. Copies of the motion picture will be available after June 1 at a rental figure of $3.50, or if purchased, at $45.00. Watch the pages of the METHODIST PEACE COURIER for this and other important developments in the Crusade for World Order.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CRUSADE PROPOSALS for World Order adopted and released by Council of Bishops - December 1953.

BOARDS AND AGENCIES meet in Chicago Temple and report plans and activities each will promote in sharing in Crusade - April 2, 1954.

U.N. SEMINAR FOR NEW JERSEY Conference, New York - April 5.

BOARD OF WORLD PEACE general mailing to twenty-nine thousand Methodist leaders - May 1.

METHODIST LEADERS CONFERENCE on U.S.-U.N. Policy, Department of State, Washington - May 11-12-13.

SOUND MOTION PICTURE, Youth interview Bishop Oxnam (see description above) - June 1.

ANNUAL CONFERENCES Visitation and Workshops. Action plans - May-June-July.

NORTH CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE on World Order and Peace; for all members of Conference Boards and Commissions on World Peace, at Garrett Biblical Institute (Note: Three other Regional Conferences are being planned) - September 1-3, 1954.

COOPERATIVE UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR, Woman's Division of Christian Service Department of Christian Social Relations and Board of World Peace, New York - September 28-30.

METHODIST EDITORS U.N.-U.S. SEMINAR, New York - October 5-6-7.

SOUTH CENTRAL STATES U.N. SEMINAR, New York - October 18-19-20.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS NATIONAL MEETING (Crusade Program under direction of Council of Bishops Crusade Committee) - November 22-24.

CRUSADE PREACHING PROGRAM - February 1955.